UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1991/L.4/Add.45
8 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian SSR)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 30. Disaster relief operations

1. At its 24th and 25th meetings, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 30 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations emphasized the need for a further strengthening of the capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) to fulfil its mandate. Several delegations pointed out that related functions pertaining to the role of the United Nations in addressing disaster and emergency situations appeared to be fragmented in their presentation in the proposed programme budget. In this context, references were made to section 30, section 6 (subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes) and section 29A.

3. The proposed creation of an additional P-5 post was supported by some delegations and questioned by others. It was noted that this new post was proposed for subprogramme 3, which was not a high priority. Some delegations pointed out, however, that this subprogramme should be considered at the same level of priority as the two other subprogrammes. One delegation proposed that additional resources should be given to subprogrammes 1 and 3.

4. Several delegations expressed the view that the proposed staffing table for section 30 appeared to be "top-heavy".

5. Several delegations deplored the lack of information in this section on the implementation of resolution 44/236 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Several delegations suggested that UNDRO should host its secretariat.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee noted the importance of disaster relief operations.

7. The Committee also noted the proposed priorities among activities within the three subprogrammes.

8. The Committee recommended the inclusion in this section of a programme narrative relating to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

9. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 30 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.